

Duke Law School, Durham, North Carolina; and Edward Whelan, Ethics and Public Policy Center, Washington, D.C.

TARGETED TAX REFORM

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine targeted tax reform, focusing on solutions to relieve the tax compliance burden for America's small businesses, including S. 1827, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the tax treatment of small businesses, after receiving testimony from Diana Beebe, ProSys, Inc., Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Donald Begneaud, Begneaud Manufacturing, Scott, Louisiana; Cori O'Steen, Upak, Inc., Aiken, South Carolina; Jeffrey A. Porter, Porter and Associates, Huntington, West Virginia, on behalf of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; Tom Mathison, Mathison Mathison Architects, Grand Rapids, Michigan, on behalf of the National Small Business Association; and Caroline Bruckner, American University Kogod School of Business Tax Policy Center, Nicholas Karellas, National Federation of Independent Business, and Dean Zerbe, alliantgroup, all of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1493, to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2015, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans;

S. 1203, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1082, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal or demotion of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs based on performance or misconduct;

S. 833, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain major medical facility projects for which appropriations were made for fiscal year 2015, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

S. 627, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to revoke bonuses paid to employees involved in electronic wait list manipulations.

MEDICARE PROVIDER ENROLLMENT FRAUD

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine combating medicare provider enrollment fraud, focusing on additional actions needed to improve eligibility verification of providers and suppliers, after receiving testimony from Seto J. Bagdoyan, Director, Forensic Audits and Investigative Service, Government Accountability Office; Shantanu Agrawal, Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Program Integrity, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services; and Katherine Leff, CareSource Management Group, Dayton, Ohio.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 24 public bills, H.R. 3149–3172; and 2 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 64; and H. Res. 371, were introduced.

Pages H5401–03

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H5404–05

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 521, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–217, Part 1);

H.R. 2770, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require certain maintenance of security-

related technology at airports, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–218);

H.R. 998, to establish the conditions under which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish preclearance facilities, conduct preclearance operations, and provide customs services outside the United States, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–219, Part 1);

H.R. 2127, to direct the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to limit access to expedited airport security screening at an airport security checkpoint to participants of the PreCheck program and other known low-risk passengers, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–220);

H.R. 2843, to require certain improvements in the Transportation Security Administration's PreCheck expedited screening program, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–221);

H.R. 1300, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–222, Part 1); and

H. Res. 370, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3009) to amend section 241(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to deny assistance under such section to a State or political subdivision of a State that prohibits its officials from taking certain actions with respect to immigration (H. Rept. 114–223).

Page H5401

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Tipton to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H5335

Recess: The House recessed at 11:02 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Page H5342

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a recorded vote of 249 ayes to 169 noes with one answering "present", Roll No. 452.

Pages H5342, H5357

Recess: The House recessed at 2:10 p.m. and reconvened at 2:14 p.m.

Page H5357

Official Photograph of the House in Session: The official photograph of the House in session was taken pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 292.

Page H5357

Recess: The House recessed at 2:15 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m.

Pages H5357–58

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow, July 23.

Page H5358

Improving Coal Combustion Residuals Regulation Act of 2015: The House passed H.R. 1734, to amend subtitle D of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to encourage recovery and beneficial use of coal combustion residuals and establish requirements for the proper management and disposal of coal combustion residuals that are protective of human health and the environment, by a recorded vote of 258 ayes to 166 noes, Roll No. 458.

Pages H5358–80

Rejected the Foster motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 184 ayes to 240 noes, Roll No. 457.

Pages H5378–80

Agreed to:

Shimkus amendment (No. 1 printed in part C of H. Rept. 114–216) that updates the reference to the

final rule and instead of referencing the date it was signed by the Administrator it inserts the date the final rule was published in the Federal Register; and

Page H5370

Castor (FL) amendment (No. 3 printed in part C of H. Rept. 114–216) that preserves cleanup requirements in EPA's final coal ash rule to protect public health and ensure that air and groundwater pollution is addressed quickly and effectively.

Page H5371

Rejected:

Pallone amendment (No. 2 printed in part C of H. Rept. 114–216) that sought to preserve transparency requirements in EPA's final coal ash rule to ensure public access to information and accountability (by a recorded vote of 177 ayes to 244 noes, Roll No. 453);

Pages H5370–71, H5375–76

Connolly amendment (No. 4 printed in part C of H. Rept. 114–216) that sought to require all inactive surface impoundments follow post-closure groundwater monitoring standards pursuant to section 257.104 subsections (b) and (c) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (by a recorded vote of 177 ayes to 245 noes, Roll No. 454);

Pages H5371–72, H5376–77

Adams amendment (No. 5 printed in part C of H. Rept. 114–216) that sought to require the owner or operator of a coal combustion residuals surface impoundment to survey all drinking water supply wells that are within a half mile and down-gradient of the established waste boundary; require the owner or operator of a coal combustion residuals surface impoundment to supply an alternative source of safe drinking water within 24 hours if well water sampling exceeds groundwater standards (by a recorded vote of 192 ayes to 231 noes, Roll No. 455); and

Pages H5373–74, H5377

Butterfield amendment (No. 6 printed in part C of H. Rept. 114–216) that sought to allow the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to prevent the legislation from going into effect if it is determined to have a negative impact on vulnerable populations (by a recorded vote of 180 ayes to 240 noes, Roll No. 456).

Pages H5374–75, H5377–78

H. Res. 369, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1599) and (H.R. 1734) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 242 ayes to 175 noes, Roll No. 451, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 239 yeas to 167 nays, Roll No. 450.

Pages H5345–57

Senate Referral: S. 286 was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

Page H5401

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and eight recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5355–56, H5356–57, H5357, H5376, H5376–77, H5377,

H5377–78, H5379–80, and H5380. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Committee Meetings

OVERSIGHT OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the U.S. Department of Agriculture”. Testimony was heard from Tom Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 511, the “Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2015”. H.R. 511 was ordered reported, as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Power held a markup on a bill to modernize energy infrastructure, build a 21st century energy and manufacturing workforce, bolster America’s energy security and diplomacy, promote energy efficiency and government accountability, and for other purposes. The bill was forwarded to the full committee, without amendment.

PROMOTING BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled “Promoting Broadband Infrastructure Investment”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING FEDERAL RESERVE REFORM PROPOSALS

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade held a hearing entitled “Examining Federal Reserve Reform Proposals”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL AND ITS IMPACT ON TERRORISM FINANCING

Committee on Financial Services: Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing held a hearing entitled “The Iran Nuclear Deal and Its Impact on Terrorism Financing”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PROMOTING U.S. COMMERCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa held a hearing entitled “Promoting U.S. Commerce in the Middle East

and North Africa”. Testimony was heard from Elizabeth Richard, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Department of State; and Scott Nathan, Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, Department of State.

THE UNFOLDING CRISIS IN BURUNDI

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled “The Unfolding Crisis in Burundi”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

AN ANALYSIS OF THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION’S SOCIAL COST OF CARBON

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “An Analysis of the Obama Administration’s Social Cost of Carbon”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs held a hearing on H.R. 1880, the “Albuquerque Indian School Land Transfer Act”; and H.R. 2388, the “Subsistence Access Management Act of 2015”. Testimony was heard from Mike Black, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 598, the “Taxpayers Right-To-Know Act”; H.R. 2320, the “Federal Improper Payments Coordination Act of 2015”; H.R. 3089, the “Grants Oversight and New Efficiency Act” or the “GONE Act”; H.R. 1613, the “Federal Vehicle Repair Cost Savings Act of 2015”; S. 136, the “Gold Star Fathers Act of 2015”; H.R. 3116, the “Quarterly Financial Report Reauthorization Act”; H.R. 322, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the “Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office”; H.R. 323, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 Grasso Plaza in St. Louis, Missouri, as the “Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office”; H.R. 324, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the “Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office”; H.R. 558, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 South Pioneer Boulevard in Springboro, Ohio, as the “Richard ‘Dick’ Chenault Post Office”; H.R. 1884, to designate the facility of the United States Postal